

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

New River Baptist Association

HELD WITH

Unity Baptist Church, Fayette County, Ala.

October 10th and 11th, 1893.

OFFICERS

W. G. BAKER, MODERATOR ..... Bankston, Ala.  
ZACH SAVAGE, CLERK ..... Newtonville, Ala.  
J. H. McGuire, Corresponding Secretary ..... Fayette, Ala.

The next session to be held with the Salem Church, 14 miles  
S. E. from Fayette, Saturday before the 2nd Sunday  
in October, 1894.



# MINUTES.

The New River Baptist Association met with Unity Church, Oct. the 10th, 1893, and in the absence of the appointee and his alternate, the introductory was delivered by Eld. J. Taylor of the Harmony Grove Association. After a bountiful repast the body met, and the Moderator and Clerk being absent, on motion, Eld. W. G. Baker was made Moderator and Zach Savage Clerk until the body should be permanently organized. After devotional exercises letters from the different churches were called for and Bros. J. H. McGuire and J. D. Thomas were appointed to read the letter. Letters were read and names of delegates enrolled. (See statistical stable.)

After which went into election for Moderator and Clerk resulting in the choice of Eld. W. G. Baker, Moderator, and Zach Savage, Clerk.

The Moderator then appointed the following committee:

On Devotion—Sam'l Stevens and W. B. Melton with the deacons of Unity church.

On Arrangements—G. W. Freeman, W. B. Shirley and P. M. Newton.

On Documents—Eld. J. E. Cox, M. W. Olive and T. J. Godfrey.

On Sabbath Schools—J. H. McGuire, Eld. J. S. Townsend and J. F. Holliman.

On Nominations—A. J. Reeves, J. C. Kimbrell and W. F. Baker.

On Finance—W. F. Gilpin, Henry Davis and R. R. White.

On Denominational School—J. H. McGuire, Eld. J. E. Cox and J. S. Shirley.

On Literature—Eld. J. R. Barnett, J. D. Thomas and W. F. Jones.

On Temperance—Eld. J. S. Shirley and G. J. Santford and W. B. Shirley.

On Education—W. B. Melton, Eld. G. J. Santford and M. W. Olive.

On Ministerial Education—Eld. J. E. Cox and J. R. Barnett and J. D. Thomas.

Called for correspondence when Bros. C. D. Stewart and J. W. Byers were received from Yellow Creek Association, Eld. J. Taylor from Harmony Grove Association.

Returned Correspondents—To Harmony Grove Association. Morris Killingsworth, Eld. G. J. Santford and W. G. Baker and Bro. P. M. Newton.

To Yellow Creek Association, Bros. W. F. Gilpin and Wm. Hassell.

To Tuscaloosa Association, Eld. J. E. Cox and J. R. Barnett and Bro. J. D. Thomas.

To North River, Elds. J. E. Cox and J. S. Townsend and Bro. J. C. Kimbrell.

To Sipsey Association, Bros. M. W. Olive, G. W. Freeman and D. L. Crow.

Committee on Devotion reported that Eld. W. G. Baker preach to-night, Eld. J. R. Barnett to follow.

Called for report from the districts :

The following report was received from the first district and was adopted :

Next meeting to be held with Shepherd church, beginning Friday before the 1st Sabbath in Sept. 1894. Eld. J. J. Patterson to preach the introductory, G. H. White Alt.

First query first day: Should Baptist engage in union Sabbath schools? Opened by Eld. Frank Wilson and L. C. Shirley.

First query second day: What was the mission of John the Baptist? Opened by Eld. J. R. Barnett and Bro. G. W. Baker.

Second query: What was meant by the Savior in 9th verse of 16th chapter St. Luke, And I say unto you make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness, that when ye fail they may receive you into everlasting habitations. Opened by G. W. Freeman and Eld. G. W. Graylee.

Third query: Is man saved by grace alone? If so why perform good works? Or is he saved partly by grace and partly by works? Opened by Elds. J. W. Holmes and W. G. Baker.

The next session of the Association to be held with Salem church.  
Eld. J. R. BARNETT, M'd.

W. M. OLIVE, Clerk.

(The second district has failed to send in its report and as the redistricting of the Association locates both meetings in what is now the second, I presume the 2nd Dist. will hold its meetings at Shepherd church and that the 1st Dist. will arrange for a meeting in her bounds.

Clerk.)

On motion, adjourned to 8:30 to-morrow.

Prayer by Eld. J. E. Cox.

### MORNING SESSION.

Oct. 11th, the body met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by M. W. Olive.

Called for report of committee on Arrangements, when the following was submitted and adopted :

Your committee on Arrangements submit the following report:  
 1st. Call for report of committee on Denominational School.  
 2nd. Call for report of Mission Board.  
 3rd. Call for report of committee on Education.  
 4th. Call for report of committee on Temperance.  
 5th. Call for report of committee on Ministerial Education.  
 6th. Call for report of Missionary.  
 7th. Call for report of committee on Finance.  
 8th. Call for report of committee on Nominations.  
 9th. Call for report of Treasurer.

10th. Call for report of committee on Literature.  
 11th. Call for report of committee on Documents.  
 12th. Call for report of committee on Sabbath schools.

Respectfully submitted,

G. W. FREEMAN,  
 Chairman.

Called for report of committee on Denominational School when the following was submitted and adopted :

Your Committee beg to report so far as we are aware there is no denominational school or schools within the limits of our territory. Several efforts have been made during the last decade by this body to set on foot a denominational Baptist school at some eligible point within our borders but only to end in failure each and every time. Your committee were once favorably disposed to such a move and would yet be if there were fair prospects of success; but we fear that within ourselves we are financially too weak to support such a school. Things that are right are not at all times expedient; so your committee do not deem it expedient at this time to further moot the question of the proposed Baptist school within our bounds.

Your committee would not be understood however, in what is said above, as opposing denominational schools. On the contrary, we favor them, and point with pride to our Baptist colleges in Alabama as the very best schools in which to educate our sons and daughters when they are prepared for higher education.

The Alabama Central Female at Tuscaloosa, is the property of the Baptists of Alabama, given to the denomination by the State, and this grand old college has this fall entered upon her fifty second session with new vigor and new life, and under the auspices of her new management we predict for her glorious results.

With this and the Judson at Marion for our girls, and the Howard at East Lake, for our boys, and the Southern Theological Seminary at Louisville, for our young preachers, the Baptists of Alabama have reason to congratulate themselves on their superior educational facilities; and we heartily commend them all to the favorable consideration and patronage of our people.

In this connection we take pleasure in calling attention to the most excellent preparatory school at Fayette Court House, under the able management of Prof. Jas. S. Vandiver, and his accomplished wife, Mrs. G. G. Vandiver. Prof. Vandiver is too well known to our people to need commendation at our hands, and Mrs. Vandiver's reputation as a trainer of girls and young ladies warrants us in bespeaking for this school the liberal patronage of our people. This school is not denominational in any sense of the word whatever, but its moral tone is sharp and decisive, and its discipline well nigh perfect.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. McGuire,  
 Chairman.

Called for report of Mission Board, when the following was offered and adopted :

The Mission Board of this and Harmony Grove Associations held a joint meeting at Fayette on the 15th December, 1892, at which Eld. W. J. Akins was present by invitation and the two Boards jointly contracted with Bro. Akins to pay him \$25.00 per month to continue

his services in the destitute field in the northern boundary of our territory, *i. e.*, in the same field occupied by him last year. At that meeting Bro. Akins reported verbally that his salary for the preceding year had been paid in full, including some payments to him by the State Board of Missions, and also what had been paid to him or to your Board for him upon subscriptions made at our last session. Your Board have not been able to collect but very little since said meeting, and we are not able to report how much our Sister Association has done for Bro. Akins, nor are we able to report what amount Bro. Akins has collected in the field, nor amount of services performed, but through reliable information we have learned that Bro. Akius has done efficient service and has received but scanty pay. We are dependent on his report for particulars. For convenience of reference we attach the subjoined account, which shows the amount subscribed, collected and disbursed by your Board, including subscription made at our last session:

Subscriptions, \$93.50; collected and paid Bro. Akins, \$87.75.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. McGuire, Chairman.

The report of Committee on Education was adopted as follows:

Your Committee believe that there is a marked improvement in education among the young men and girls in our bounds, and a greater interest among parents for their children in regard to their education. We believe that unless we arouse to greater action on the subject of education we will be left behind in the great struggle of life, and while we would emphasize the necessity of an education in our common text books, we would also recommend a more thorough education in the doctrine of our denomination—let us practice what we preach.

W. B. MELTON, Chairman.

Eld. Wm. Wood filled the stand in the Grove, followed by Eld. D. W. Dickinson.

The following report from Committee on Temperance was adopted:

Whereas, in the past sessions of this body there has been much said on the subject of dram-drinking and the evils of intoxicating liquors. We are glad to note that its use as a beverage is on the decline, especially among our members, but inasmuch as the inspired writer informs us to be temperate in all things, now this covers the whole ground, and we sincerely ask this body to investigate this subject more closely, that we may enjoy health and the right exercise of mind and the blessings of God more fully.

J. S. SHIRLEY, Chairman.

Adjourned one hour for dinner. Prayer by Eld. J. S. Townsend.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 2 p. m. the body was called to order.

Prayer by Elder J. R. Barnett.

Received correspondence: From Harmony Grove Association, Eld. W. J. Akins; from Yellow Creek, Eld. Wm. Wood, J. A. Trim.

On motion, speeches were limited to five minutes.

The following report of Committee on Ministerial Education was adopted:

Your Committee heartily recommend that our churches, through their pastors, take up regular monthly collections for ministerial education. The Ministerial Board of our State Convention is sadly in need of funds to aid ministerial students at the Howard; and in consequence of the great falling off of the usual contributions from the churches the board have been obliged to withdraw the assistance heretofore to a great number of young preachers at the college. This board is located at Montgomery with Bro. Ellis as secy., who will receive and receipt for all contributions for ministerial education, and funds so collected will be applied and used generally at the Howard for all ministerial students attending there or for any particular student designated by the donor. Brethren we need an educated ministry, and if we are not mistaken there is a growing demand among our people for such. As the people become better educated the greater is the demand for educated preachers, and we believe the time will soon come when our ministers will all compare favorably in point of education with members of the learned professions all over our land and when butchering the "Queen's English" in the pulpit will be no longer a common phrase of reproach in the mouth of every upstart who can parse a sentence in Morris's grammar correctly.

J. E. Cox,  
Chairman.

At 2:30 p. m. preaching at the stand by Eld. Jas. Dickinson and J. S. Townsend.

The following report of Missionary was adopted:

Marion county, Ala., Sept. 30th, 1893.

To the Executive Board of the New River Baptist Association, greeting: Dear brethren in compliance with the duty enjoined upon me by the Association I have devoted this associational year laboring in destitute communities. I have labored faithfully, yet there is much to be accomplished in the great work of the Master. I would recommend the appointment of a missionary to labor in this destitution and supply the two little churches already organized. I have received for my services,

From the State Board .....	.....	\$ 50 00
Harmony Grove Association .....	.....	22 00
New River Association .....	.....	11 10

I have traveled 1155 miles, delivered 127 sermons, 34 addresses, made 291 visits, baptized 1, by others in connection with my labors 18, received by letter 5, organized 3 Sabbath schools, 2 prayer meetings, prayer meetings held 32, preaching stations 5, visits to same 65, ministers visited 5, churches visited 5, tracts given away 102, Bibles and

Bibles and Testaments sold 37, Testaments donated 15, religious books sold 50.

Respectfully submitted,

W. J. AKINS,  
Mis.

Committee on Finance submitted the following report which was adopted :

Your Committee beg leave to make the following report :

Moneys received from the different churches for minutes . . . . .	\$ 21 05
Associational purposes . . . . .	8 00
State Mission . . . . .	6 50
Foreign Mission . . . . .	1 00

Total . . . . . \$ 36 55

Respectfully submitted,

W. F. GILLPIN,  
Chairman.

The Treasurer is instructed to pay to Eld. W. J. Akins any funds now on hand or coming into his hands as State Mission funds.

The following report of committee on Nominations was adopted :

We recommend that the next session of this body be held with Salem church, Tuscaloosa county, commencing on Saturday before the 2nd Sabbath in October, 1894. That Eld. J. I. McCollum preach the introductory and Eld. G. W. Gravlee alternate, Eld. J. W. Hosmer to preach at 11 o'clock Sunday, Eld. J. F. Willis alt.

Mission Board—J. D. Thomas, J. F. Holliman, J. R. Gladden, M. L. Parke and J. R. Agerton.

On Ministerial Education—Eld. G. W. Gravlee, W. G. Baker and Bro. W. B. Melton.

A. J. REEVES,  
Chairman.

Treasurer's report adopted as follows :

On hand at last session . . . . .	\$ 19 87
Rec. from Finance committee . . . . .	49 35
" " J. R. Gladden for Missions . . . . .	10 01

Total . . . . .	\$ 79 13
Paid to J. M. Waller . . . . .	\$ 11 25
For printing Minutes . . . . .	25 00
To A. M. Nichols, Clerk . . . . .	10 00
" " Postage . . . . .	84

Total . . . . .	47 09
Balance now in Treasury . . . . .	\$ 32 04

Respectfully submitted,

W. F. Baker,  
Treasurer.

The following report of committee on Literature was adopted:

We heartily recommend to the churches of this association the following periodicals: The Alabama Baptist, Montgomery, Ala., it being the organ of our State Convention and a true advocate of Baptist doctrine. Home Field, published at Atlanta, Ga. The State Mission quarterly, edited by W. B. Crumpton, Marion, Ala. The Foreign Mission Journal, Richmond, Va., in which is much information concerning missionaries and their work in foreign fields. We recommend to Sabbath schools The Worker and Superintendent, published by the American Baptist Society, also "Kind Words" publications. We believe all these to be good wholesome and sound literature.

Respectfully submitted,

J. R. BARNETT,  
Chairman.

Report of committee on Documents adopted as follows:

Your Committee to whom the documents of this body were referred beg to report, that we have carefully examined the same and find that Meadow Branch and Hopewell churches ask for letters of dismission to join where they are more conveniently located. We recommend that letters be granted to these sister churches. We also find a query from Mt. Lebanon church which we append to this report. We earnestly suggest that this body answer no! Verily No!! We also find that Friendship church to whom was granted a letter of dismission at our last session now asks to be admitted into our union again. We recommend that the request be granted.

All of which we submit.

J. E. Cox,  
T. J. GODFREY,  
M. W. Olive,  
Committee.

The query: Shall the New River Baptist Association correspond with a sister association who holds churches in her union, who hold members in full fellowship advocating the doctrine taught by Russell in his Zions Watchtower and who are guilty of distributing his seductive literature.

Adopted by the church in conference on Saturday before the first Sunday in Oct., 1893.

T. W. SHELTON, M. D. P. T.  
J. F. HOLLIMAN, C. C.

Report of committee on Sabbath Schools adopted as follows:

We deplore the fact that the Sunday school interest in our Association seems to be on the decline. Believing that a correct knowledge of the Holy scriptures is necessary to the conversion of our children to Christ and to their well-being, and believe that teaching the rising generation is a part of our work under the great commission, therefore we recommend that each church endeavor to build up and carry on continuously a Sunday school for the better instruction of the members and that others may hear and learn the great living truths of the Gospel.

Respectfully,

J. H. McGuire.

The second district failing to make her report was on motion, allowed to forward her report to the Clerk and the same to be inserted in the minutes.

Committee appointed at last session to redistrict the Association submitted the following report which was adopted:

Your committee recommend that New River be the dividing line. The east side to be known as the first and the west side as the second district.

Respectfully submitted,

G. T. HASSELL,  
W. G. BAKER,  
J. C. YERBY,  
Committee.

Bro. W. J. Akins addressed the body on the subject of mission work.

W. F. Baker was re-elected Treasurer.

Eld. J. E. Cox and Bros. J. H. McGuire and R. W. Woods were delegated to the State Baptist Convention.

Eld. J. E. Cox and Bro. J. H. McGuire to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Resolutions adopted.

*Resolved*, that this body now in session does most heartily tender its thanks to Unity church and vicinity for the hospitality shown us while here.

W. B. MELTON.

*Resolved*, that the clerk have as many copies of minutes printed as he can get for the minute fund and that he have for his services the Association fund on hand.

J. E. COX.

#### LETTER OF CORRESPONDENCE.

Unity Baptist Church, Fayette Co. Ala., Oct. 11th, 1893.  
To sister associations with whom we are in correspondence. The New River Association sendeth christian greeting:

Dear brethren we are now in our 23rd annual session and are having a harmonious and pleasant meeting. We extend a hearty welcome to your messengers who are seated with us and gladly receive the documents you have sent us, and hope to meet you by messengers as shown in our minutes, at your next session. May the Lord of our salvation preside over your deliberations, and may we yet enjoy many pleasant associations together here on this earth to the end that we be better prepared for that great Association in heaven for which we are all striving.

J. H. McGuire,  
Cor. Secty.

Read and approved minutes and adjourned.

W. G. BAKER, Moderator.

ZACK SAVAGE, Clerk.

## ORDAINED AND LICENSED MINISTERS AND THEIR POST-OFFICE.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.	POST-OFFICE.	LICENSED MINISTERS.	POST-OFFICE.
<i>First District.</i>			
J. R. Barrett.....	Samantha.....	L. C. Shirley.....	Ridge.....
W. G. Baker.....	Bankston.....	W. M. Olive.....	Davis Creek.....
J. H. Hosner.....	New Lexington.....	G. W. McGinnis.....	Bankston.....
J. T. Durham.....	Glen Allen.....	J. L. Harbin.....	Berry.....
J. J. Patterson.....	Ridge.....	J. T. Garrison.....	Handy.....
J. S. Townsend.....	Handy.....	W. P. Jenkins.....	Handy.....
J. B. Newton.....	Toledo.....	G. H. White.....	Mouia.....
J. E. Cox.....	Fazette.....		
M. W. Olive.....	Bankston.....		
<i>Second District.</i>			
J. I. McCollum.....	Fayette.....	T. W. Shelton.....	Cane.....
W. J. Blankenship.....	Ballard.....	J. W. Graham.....	Fayette.....
G. I. Sanford.....	Ballard.....	G. W. Freeman.....	Fayette.....
J. F. Willis.....	Fayette.....		
Frank Wilson.....	Fayette.....		
G. W. Gravlee.....	Newtonville.....		
J. S. Shirley.....	Hugent.....		
J. P. Kickinson.....	Hugent.....		

STATISTICS OF NEW RIVER ASSOCIATION, 1893.

CHURCHES.	PASTOR.	PASTOR'S POST-OFFICE.	CLERK'S CLERK.	CLERK'S POSTOFFICE.
<i>First District.</i>				
Arbor Springs .....	N. Dobbs .....	Oregonia .....	J. W. Falls .....	Samantha .....
Bankston .....	W. G. Baker .....	Bankston .....	J. W. Woods .....	Bankston .....
Concord .....	J. M. Chism .....	Kenedy .....	G. W. Black .....	Ridge .....
Philadelphia .....	W. G. Baker .....	Bankston .....	I. B. Deavors .....	Deavors .....
Pleasant Grove .....	J. S. Townsend .....	Handy .....	J. M. Mathenez .....	Fayette .....
Pleasant Hill .....	J. E. Cox .....	Fayette .....	J. C. Kimbrell .....	Fayette .....
Shady Grove .....	W. G. Baker .....	Bankston .....	N. P. Walker .....	Bankston .....
Salem .....	I. L. Collins .....	Ridge .....	W. F. Dawson .....	New Lexington .....
Mt. Pleasant .....	J. W. Hosmer .....	New Lexington .....	L. T. Hocut .....	Davis Creek .....
<i>Second District.</i>				
Elbethel .....	J. P. Dickenson .....	Hugent .....	G. T. Harrell .....	Fayette .....
Fayette .....	G. W. Gravlee .....	Newtonville .....	F. A. Nuckols .....	Fayette .....
Friendship .....	A. N. Reeves .....	Winfield .....	J. H. Melharg .....	Ballard .....
Mt. Lebanon .....	J. N. Dyer .....	Cane .....	J. F. Holliman .....	Cane .....
Pilgrim Rest .....	Frank Wilson .....	Fayette .....	J. A. Freeman .....	Fayette .....
Rock Mount .....	A. Penington .....	Hitoga .....	W. S. Bobo .....	Covin .....
Sipsey Valley .....	J. S. White .....	Ridge .....	G. W. Baker .....	Hico .....
Shepherd .....	S. M. Waldrop .....	.....	W. J. Johnson .....	.....
Unity .....	A. N. Reeves .....	Winfield .....	J. A. Harbin .....	Ballard .....
Meadow Branch .....	A. Penington .....	Hitoga .....	N. L. Trull .....	Auro .....
Hopewell .....	J. T. Durham .....	.....	J. E. Mills .....	.....

## CHURCHES.

## DELEGATES.

CHURCHES.	DELEGATES.	Associat <sup>t</sup> fund	Minute fund	State Missions	Foreign Missions
Arbor Springs	J. R. Barnett, W. D. Whatley	2	3	\$1 00	\$1 50
Bankston	W. G. Baker, G. W. Deavors	11	6	1 50	2 75
Concord	W. B. Melton, E. C. Lawles, J. J. Smalley	5	12	1 25	1 00
Philadelphia	J. S. Townsend, P. M. Newton, C. H. Hyde	2	6	1 25	2 5
Pleasant Grove	J. S. Stevens	3	1	22	15
Pleasant Hill	J. E. Cox, J. C. Kimbrell, J. H. Newton	1	2	43	75
Shady Grove	M. W. Olive, A. W. Pinion	1	4	1 00	50
Salem	G. H. Dawson, J. D. Thomas	10	8	1 00	50
Mt. Pleasant	Samuel Gladdier	6	7	2 2	1 50
Elbethel	W. J. Harrell, W. F. Gilpin, W. F. Jones	7	4	48	50
Fayette	J. H. McGuire, W. F. Baker, I. C. Yerby	9	14	1 50	1 00
Friendship	G. I. Santford, J. L. Moore, R. R. White	11	3	1 50	30
Mt. Lebanon	J. F. Holliman	1	3	1	10
Pilgrim Rest	Henry Davis	11	1	1	2 00
Rock Mount	G. W. Freeman, D. L. Crow, W. C. Manasco	1	1	1	50
Sipsey Valley	Zach Savage, L. J. Appling	1	5	1	40
Shepherd	C. J. Patterson	8	1	2	25
Unity	J. S. Shirley, A. J. Reeves, W. B. Shirley	4	4	1 50	50
Meadow Branch	T. J. Godfrey, J. H. Cooper, W. C. Waldrop	1	5	1 75	65
Hopewell	Thomas Lyon	8	1	2	26

